

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Thank you for your unprecedented leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and for your efforts to repatriate Americans abroad, counter adversaries like China and Iran, and efforts to hold the World Health Organization accountable. We are writing to request updated guidelines for relations with Taiwan, including for senior-level administration travel, as well as any relevant guidance to federal agencies concerning the implementation of these guidelines

Currently, the world is struggling to address a pandemic exacerbated by the Chinese Communist Party, a crisis in which Taiwan has demonstrated its value as a U.S. ally and international force for good. U.S.-Taiwan relations have never been more important. However, to our knowledge, unnecessarily restrictive guidelines put in place by the prior administration continue to impede our bilateral relationship.

On a bipartisan basis across Republican and Democrat administrations, Congress has long taken the position that the United States' self-imposed restrictions on relations with Taiwan are not in keeping with the importance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. For example, the *Taiwan Travel Act* (P.L. 115-135) reiterated Congress' bipartisan consensus that it should be U.S. policy to allow "officials at all levels of the United States Government, including Cabinet-level national security officials, general officers, and other executive branch officials, to travel to Taiwan to meet their Taiwanese counterparts." Foreign travel by U.S. Cabinet members and other high-ranking officials fosters deep ties between the U.S. and our allies. Official visits also reinforce to the American-Taiwan business community that Taiwan is one of our top trading partners and, as noted by Vice President Mike Pence, "one of the world's great trading economies."

The *Taiwan Assurance Act*, which passed the House unanimously in 2019 and is currently under Senate consideration, establishes that regulations for U.S.-Taiwan relations "should be crafted with the intent to deepen and expand United States-Taiwan relations, and be based on the value, merits, and importance of the United States-Taiwan relationship." We believe our interactions with Taiwan should strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship in the areas of trade, defense, technology supply chains, democratic norms, personal liberties, and other substantive areas of cooperation. Existing restrictions on various aspects of U.S.-Taiwan relations, including those for travel, government-to-government meetings, and media, are inconsistent with these principles and not required by the *Taiwan Relations Act* or relevant policies.

Taiwan is a vibrant beacon of freedom and democracy in Asia which has been a valued and loyal ally to the United States for decades. We applaud that, in one of his first diplomatic overtures, President-elect Donald J. Trump received a call from Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and indicated his intent to foster a strong relationship with the government and people of Taiwan. Like President Trump, we support our critical relationship with Taiwan. However, since the passage of the *Taiwan Travel Act*, it appears that high-level U.S. visits have not increased, despite passage of that important, bipartisan law. Accordingly, and within all applicable rules and regulations, we respectfully request that you review any guidelines that impose undue restrictions on U.S.-Taiwan relations, and that you provide us with the guidelines currently in place.

We appreciate your service and commitment to the security and wellbeing of our nation.

Very Respectfully,



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



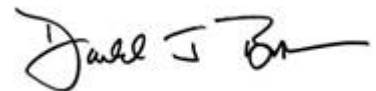
Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Ron Wright
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



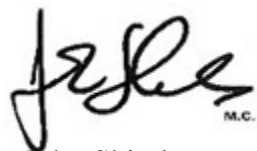
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



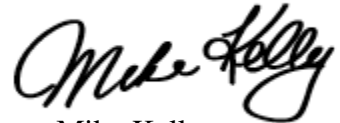
Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



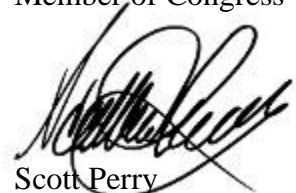
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



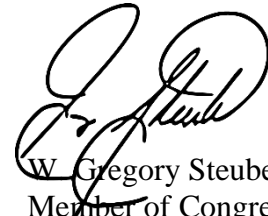
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

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Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Gregory Steube". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name "W. Gregory" and last name "Steube" clearly legible.

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress